

CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE
ISSUE
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PURGATORI



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re-IMAGINED

ISSUE 01

PURGATORI

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re-IMAGINED 01
ISSUE 01

TOWNSHIP OF SOURLAKE.
THIRTY-TWO MILES FROM
SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS.
JULY 23, 1692.

"SARAH! SARAH, I JUST
SAW BETSY WITHERS AT
THE BUTCHER'S!"

SARAH,
THEY HANGED REBECCA
NURSE AND SUSANNAH
MARTIN AND THREE
OTHERS! IN SALEM,
JUST DAYS AGO!

THAT
MAKES...SIX, WITH
BRIDGET BISHOP.
AND SO MANY
OTHERS PUT ON
TRIAL...

WITCHES, ALL OF THEM!
THEY'RE GETTING NO
MORE THAN THEY
DESERVE.

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT,
SARAH? ROSE? "THOU
SHALT NOT SUFFER
A WITCH TO LIVE!"

YES,
MA'AM.

GOOD.
THERE IS ONLY ONE
FITTING PUNISHMENT FOR
THAT KIND OF EVIL AND
WICKEDNESS, DO YOU
HEAR ME?

THE GOOD
FOLK OF SALEM
ACT AS GOD'S
HAND.



I WANT YOU TO PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THESE PREPARATIONS, SARAH. JOHN AND LYDIA BALLARD WILL DINE WITH US TONIGHT...

...AND IN TWO DAYS' TIME I MEAN TO HAVE THE NEW PARSON HERE FOR THE EVENING MEAL. WELCOME HIM PROPERLY TO THE TOWN.

YES, MA'AM.

NOT JUST IN SALEM, NOW, IS IT? MY COUSIN, JOSEPH, IN ANDOVER - HE HAS ALSO BEEN BEWITCHED!

BROUGHT IN THE TWO LITTLE GIRLS AS FIRST PERCEIVED THE DEVILTRY! HE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT, I PROMISE YOU.

OH, JOHN, LET US STOP ALL THIS TALK OF WITCHCRAFT. MORE PRESSING MATTERS ARE COMING, ARE THEY NOT?

I HAVE HEARD PARSON LITTLE IS UNMARRIED...AND NOT UNATTRACTIVE. SUCH HAS PREYED ON YOUR MIND, DIERDRE, YES?

HONESTLY, LYDIA, I HAD NOT CONSIDERED SUCH THINGS.

"OH, AYE? WILLIAM HAS BEEN GONE NOW FIVE YEARS, DIERDRE. IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK 'TIS TIME YOUR BED WAS SHARED AGAIN."

KNOCK
KNOCK

"AND THE NEW PARSON WOULD MAKE A FINE HUSBAND."



SARAH...
COME TO ME,
GIRL.



MA'AM - OH,
MA'AM, I'M SORRY,
BUT I'M SO
FRIGHTENED!



IS WHAT
GOODWIFE BALLARD
SAID - IS IT TRUE?
DO YOU THINK OF
MARRYING AGAIN?



SARAH...YOU
HAVE ALWAYS DONE
YOUR BEST TO PLEASE
ME...EVER SINCE I TOOK YOU
FROM THE ORPHANAGE.
ALWAYS DONE JUST AS
YOU'RE TOLD.



DO SO NOW. PLEASE
ME...AND HEED ME WHEN I TELL
YOU, DO NOT WORRY.



YES,
MA'AM...

"IF ONLY I...IF I COULD BUT
STAY IN YOUR ARMS AN
HOUR MORE..."

YOU KNOW
I LOVE YOU,
CHILD. I ALWAYS
WILL. BUT YOU
MUST GO.

OFF WITH
YOU, NOW. BACK
DOWN TO YOUR
ROOM.



SARAH! SARAH!
WAKE UP, SARAH,
WAKE UP!

WHAT
WHAT IS IT, ROSE?
WHAT HAS YOU SO
FLUSTERED?

IT'S THE
NEW PARSON!
HE'S COME A DAY
EARLY, AND THE
WHOLE TOWN IS
TO MEET HIM!





"THERE! LISTEN, DO YOU
HEAR THE HOOFBEATS?
HE'S ALMOST HERE!"



WELCOME,
PARSON!

WELCOME TO
SOURLAKE!



GLAD
TO HAVE YOU,
PARSON!



WELCOME,
SETH LITTLE, WELCOME
TO SOURLAKE! GOD'S WILL
HAS SHONE DOWN UPON US
TO DELIVER SUCH AN
UPSTANDING MAN OF THE
CLOTH!

I AM JUDGE RAYMOND
BARNES, AND THIS IS DIERDRE
ABBOTT, ONE OF SOURLAKE'S
MOST PROMINENT CITIZENS.

PLEASED TO MAKE
YOUR ACQUAINTANCE,
JUDGE BARNES.

AND GOODWIFE
ABBOTT...I HAVE
HEARD OF YOU.



SURELY THE TOWN MUST LONG HAVE
MOURNED THE PASSING OF YOUR
HUSBAND.

YOU ARE
TOO KIND,
PARSON.



IT...I AM...HOSTING A
SMALL GATHERING TOMORROW
EVENING, IF YOU COULD DO US
THE HONOR OF ATTENDING...?

IT WOULD
BE MY EXQUISITE
PLEASURE.

"BETSY WITHERS SAID SHE HEARD SOMEONE SAY PARSON LITTLE MEANS TO MARRY MISTRESS ABBOTT!"

AND WOULDN'T THAT BE FINE, THOUGH? MA'AM MARRIED TO THE NEW PARSON?

BETSY SAID SHE HEARD HE MEANS TO ASK HER AS SOON AS HE SETTLES IN TO HIS PARSONAGE!

YES...YES, 'TWOULD BE FINE INDEED...

AND IF I MAY REITERATE, GOODWIFE ABBOTT, THIS TRULY IS A LOVELY HOUSEHOLD.

MY THANKS, PARSON LITTLE. MY HUSBAND, GOD REST HIS SOUL, SAW A MEASURE OF SUCCESS IN BUSINESS BEFORE HE PASSED ON.

OH LORD JESUS, PLEASE HEAR ME...

I KNOW, I KNOW I'VE DONE WRONG IN YOUR EYES, BUT...BUT MISTRESS ABBOTT IS ALL I KNOW...SHE'S ALL I HAVE...

JUDGE BARNES CONFIDED IN ME JUST THIS AFTERNOON HOW INFLUENTIAL YOU HAVE COME TO BE IN SOURLAKE.

SUCH INFLUENCE COULD PROVE INVALUABLE IN THE SPREAD OF THE LORD'S WORD...

...IF ONE COULD BUT FIND A WAY TO PARTAKE OF IT.



"...AND, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I DO LOVE HER SO. I LOVE HER SO MUCH. AND NOW, WITH THE PARSON HERE, I..."

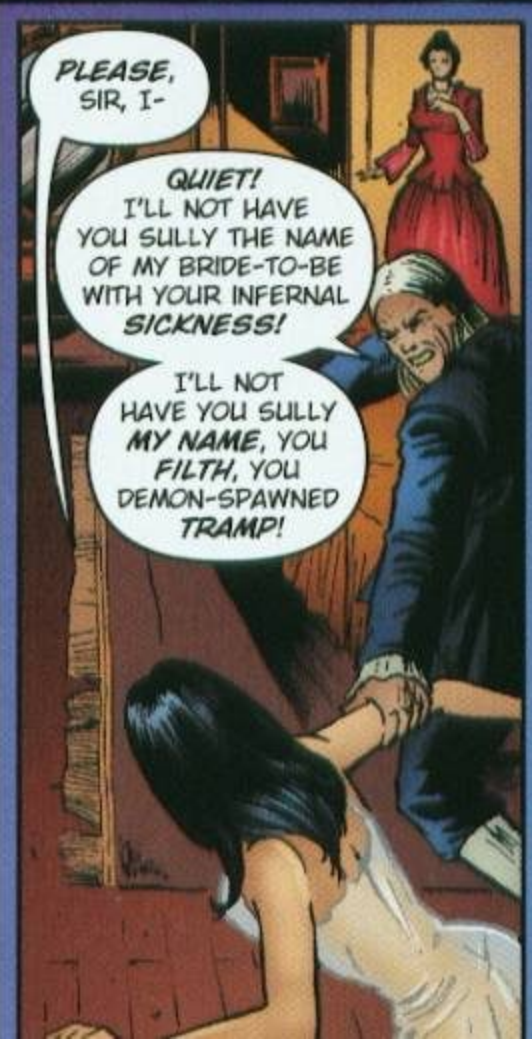


"I KNOW NOT WHAT I CAN DO. PLEASE, LORD, SHOW ME THE WAY. LEND ME YOUR GUIDANCE. AMEN."

MISTRESS...?



SO 'TIS TRUE!



PLEASE, SIR, I-

QUIET!
I'LL NOT HAVE YOU SULLY THE NAME OF MY BRIDE-TO-BE WITH YOUR INFERNAL SICKNESS!

I'LL NOT HAVE YOU SULLY MY NAME, YOU FILTH, YOU DEMON-SPAWNED TRAMP!



YOU...WITCH.



PLEASE!
PARSON LITTLE, MISTRESS,
PLEASE, DON'T DO THIS! I'M
SORRY, I'M SO SORRY,
PLEASE!

SILENCE,
WITCH!



CLEAR, IT IS,
THAT THE DEVILTRY IN
SALEM AND ANDOVER HAS
COME HERE! CLEAR THAT
SATAN HIMSELF HAS
CREPT UP INSIDE
YOU -

- **FOULED** YOU,
MADE OF YOU A VILE
TEMPTRESS!



ONLY A
WITCH WOULD TRY TO
CORRUPT SUCH A NOBLE
SOUL AS GOODWIFE
ABBOTT!



BUT THE
COURT OF OYER
AND TERMINER IN
SALEM HAS SHOWN US
THE WAY, THE **ONLY**
WAY TO DEAL WITH
SUCH REFUSE
AS YOU.



THE **FIRE**
SHALL TAKE YOU,
SHALL CLEANSE THIS TOWN,
SHALL CLEANSE THIS
HOUSE!



AAAAAH!

KRAK

-HNGH-



SETH! SETH,
DID SHE - DID
THE WITCH
HARM YOU?



NO,
NO, WOMAN,
I'M UNHURT.

GATHER THE
TOWNSPEOPLE. NOW.
TONIGHT.



IT APPEARS
WE'LL BE HAVING
A WITCH-HUNT OF
OUR OWN.





H-HELLO...?

COME,
COME, CHILD. I AM
ONLY A SIMPLE
SHAMAN.

BE NOT
FRIGHTENED,
I'LL NOT
HARM YOU.



YOU'VE
TRAVELED A LONG
WAY TONIGHT,
YES?

I - I'M
NOT SURE...I'VE
BEEN RUNNING A
LONG TIME...

WELL,
HERE, COME AND
SIT. PUT SOMETHING
HOT IN YOUR
BELLY.



THERE,
THERE, NOW...A
BIT OF COFFEE FOR
THE TROUBLED
TRAVELER.

AND YOU
ARE TROUBLED, ARE
YOU NOT, LASS? THINGS
GONE VERY WRONG FOR
YOU THIS NIGHT,
HAVE THEY NOT?

I...
EVERYTHING...
EVERYTHING IN MY
LIFE IS **GONE**, SIR. I
WAS BUT A SERVANT...
I ONLY...TRIED TO
DO WHAT I WAS
TOLD...



WELL, THE BEST
THING YOU CAN DO
FOR TROUBLE IS
TO SHARE IT. THAT
IS SOMETHING I
FIRMLY BELIEVE.
AND BESIDES, IF
'TIS A CAUSE I
FAVOR...

...MAYHAP I CAN
PROVIDE YOU THE MEANS
TO RESPOND TO IT.



HERE, STEP
WITH ME INTO THE
SHELTER. I HAVE
SOMETHING I WANT
TO SHOW YOU.



BE
AT EASE,
CHILD.

I'LL
ONLY GIVE
YOU WHAT
YOU WANT.
BELIEVE
ME.



WHAT - NO!
AAIYEEEE!



RRHHHH-



RRRRHHAAAAA!



WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE
TO ME?

MY MY
MY...YOU KNOW,
MY PEOPLE CALL ME A
TRICKSTER...BUT TONIGHT
I THINK THE TRICK IS
PLAYED ON ME.

YOU HAVE *FIRE*
IN YOUR VEINS, LASS.
THE KIND OF FIRE PASSED
DOWN, GENERATION
TO GENERATION.

I WOULD WAGER ONE
OF YOUR ANCESTORS
LAID WITH *VERY*
BAD COMPANY.

WHAT - WHAT
ARE YOU *SAYING* -
THAT I'M SOME,
SOME KIND OF -



SOME KIND
OF WHAT? *DEVIL*?
I HESITATE TO
CONJECTURE.

BUT WHATEVER
YOU MAY BE, I HAVE
AWAKENED YOU. AND I CAN
FEEL IT FROM HERE - YOU
WOKE UP *HUNGRY*.

I SAID I MIGHT LET
YOU RESPOND TO ALL YOUR
TROUBLE TONIGHT, LASS. AND IF YOU
LOOK INSIDE, YOU'LL SEE EXACTLY *HOW*.



"YES...YES. I DO."

"DO NOT MOVE FROM THIS
PLACE, SHAMAN. I SHALL
RETURN, WITH *MANY*
QUESTIONS."

WE SHALL NOT REST UNTIL THIS PLAGUE OF WITCHERY HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END!

THE WITCH-GIRL, SARAH, MUST BE FOUND, AND FOUND THIS NIGHT!

THE LIFE OF SOURLAKE DEPENDS ON IT!

THE VERY LIFE OF-

-LIFE OF... UH...

PARSON? WHAT IS IT?

GOD IN HEAVEN...

'TIS THE DEVIL HIMSELF!

GOD HAVE MERCY! RUN!







RRRR

RRRRHAAAAA!

WHAT HAVE
YOU UNLEASHED
ON THE WORLD THIS
NIGHT, PARSON?

WHAT
HAVE YOU
UNLEASHED ON
YOURSELF?



NO...NO,
STAY BACK...STAY
AWAY...

ALL I HAVE
DONE - ALL I
HAVE *EVER* DONE -
IS DO AS I WAS
TOLD TO DO.



AND WHEN I WAS TOLD
TO GIVE MY HEART
AWAY...TOLD TO
EMBRACE A
DAZZLING, SECRET
LOVE...



I DID SO,
UNRESERVEDLY.
WITH ALL OF
MYSELF.

IS THAT
NOT SO,
MA'AM?



...SARAH?



NO! NO! IN
THE NAME OF ALL THAT'S
HOLY, IN THE NAME OF ALL
THINGS *RIGHT* AND *GOOD*,
I *REBUKE* YOU!

SARAH IS GONE
NOW, MISTRESS ABBOTT.
GONE AWAY, AND NEVER
COMING BACK. I HAVE A
NEW NAME NOW.

ONE YOU SHALL
RECOGNIZE. ONE THAT
WILL RING INSIDE YOUR HEAD
AS YOU DIE, SHAMED AT
HAVING SO CALLOUSLY
ABANDONED ME.



EEEEEEEEEEEE

I AM
PURGATORI.



NO...NO,
PLEASE, SARAH - PLEASE
LISTEN TO ME! HE, HE
FORCED ME, HE MADE
ME DO THIS!

SARAH, PLEASE,
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I LOVE YOU!



YOU EACH
WANTED THE OTHER'S
STATUS...AND THE PRICE
WAS MY LIFE. THE MATTER
IS NO MORE COMPLEX
THAN THAT.

THE GIRL,
ROSE. WHERE
IS SHE?

AT HOME!
AT HOME,
ASLEEP!



THEN YOUR
HOME IS THE ONE
BUILDING I WILL
SPARE.

NO! NO! NO!

AAAAAAHHH!



SO.
"PURGATORI,"
IS IT? FITTING
NAME.

HOW DO
YOU KNOW THAT
NAME?

I KNOW A
GREAT MANY THINGS
ABOUT THE WORLD. NOT ALL
OF THEM - AS YOUR EXISTENCE
PROVES - BUT A GREAT MANY
THINGS, NONETHELESS.

THERE IS
KNOWLEDGE TO BE HAD,
PURGATORI. KNOWLEDGE I CAN
IMPART TO YOU, AND YOU TO
ME. KNOWLEDGE THAT MAY
WELL AFFECT ALL
OF EARTH.

INTERESTED?

INTERESTED.
...HUNGRY.
RAVENOUS.

TELL ME
EVERYTHING.



Static-X

Issue number 1

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escape. think.
run. live.

In the future the battle for
freedom won't be on the
streets... It will be in the mind.

the next step in **X!**



CHAOS!
ON THE EDGE

the battle in the mind begins **JULY 24.2002**

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